

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 01707 241720Z

46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 110380

O P 241541Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2812

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1707

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: CYPRUS INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IN VIENNA: COMMENTS BY BITSIOS

REF: (A) ATHENS 1669, (B) VIENNA 1379

1. I MET PRIVATELY WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS TODAY TO DISCUSS LAST WEEK'S ROUND OF THE CYPRUS INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IN VIENNA AND SEVERAL OTHER SUBJECTS (SEPTELS). I ASKED HIM WHAT HE COULD TELL ME ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED IN VIENNA AND HOW HE FELT ABOUT THE RESULTS AND PROSPECTS NOW.

2. BITSIOS INDICATED HE WAS SLIGHTLY ENCOURAGED BY THE WAY THE TALKS TOOK PLACE ALTHOUGH IT WAS OBVIOUS THERE WOULD BE NO REAPID OR DRAMATIC PROGRESS DURING THE PERIOD IMMEDIATELY AHEAD. HE SAW A GLIMMER OF HOPE IN SOME OF THE STATEMENTS MADE BY DENKTASH AND, DEPENDING UPON THE WRITTEN PROPOSALS THAT DENKTASH IS COMMITTED TO PRESENT WITHIN THE NEXT SIX WEEKS, THESE COULD PROVIDE "AN OPENING" FOR CLERIDES AND DENKTASH TO FIND A COMMON BASIS IN THEIR NEXT MEETING IN VIENNA IN MAY FOR REFERRING THE TERRITORIAL AND OTHER MAIN QUESTIONS AT ISSUE TO SUB-COMMITTEES. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE HAD SEEN ONLY SUMMARY REPORTS FROM CYPRUS AND WOULD HAVE TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 01707 241720Z

AWAIT CLERIDES' ARRIVAL AND TALKS IN ATHENS THIS

COMING FRIDAY BEFORE HE WOULD KNOW THE FULL BACK-
GROUND AND DETAILS.

3. BITSIOS SAID THAT THE GOG HAD TRIED TO STAY
VERY MUCH IN THE BACKGROUND DURING THE PREPARATION
FOR AND THE CONDUCT OF THIS ROUND OF TALKS IN VIENNA.
HE SAID THAT AND CARAMANLIS HAD NOT WANTED TO
"INTERFERE WITH THE CYPRIOTS" AND HAD THEREFORE PLAYED
ONLY A MINIMAL ROLE. HE SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY HAD
MADE A STRENUOUS EFFORT LATE LAST YEAR IN SEEKING TO
ALIGN THE GREEK SIDE INTO A REASONABLE AND POTNETIALLY
PRODUCTIVE NEGOTIATING POSITION ON CYPRUS AND THAT
ALSO HE HAD WORKED VERY HARD TO BRING ABOUT THE
BRUSSELS UNDERSTANDINGS WITH CABLAYANGIL OF LAST
DECEMBER 12. THEREFORE, HE HAD FELT THAT WITH THE
POSITION OF THE GREEK SIDE WELL ESTABLISHED AND
THE PATH FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS WORKED OUT WITH
THE TURKS IN BRUSSELS, THAT IT WAS TIME FOR THE GOG
TO DRAW BACK SOMEWHAT AND LET THE GREEK CYRIOTS
CARRY THE BALL. EVEN SO, HE ADDED, HE CONTINUED TO
HAVE SOMETHING OF A "SOUR FEELING" ABOUT THE BRUSSELS
UNDERSTANDINGS BECAUSE OF THE WAY CAGLAYANGIL AND
THE TURKISH SIDE HAD SOUGHT TO EXPOSE AND MISREPRESENT
THEM. WHEN THE DISAGREEMENT OF INTERPRETATION BETWEEN
THE GREEK AND TURKISH GOVERNMENTS SPILLED INTO THE
PRESS AND CAGLAYANGIL HAD CALLED PUBLICLY FOR
PUBLICATION OF THE PROCES VERBALE BITSIOS SAID
THAT HE HAD FAVORED MAKING THAT DOCUMENT PUBLIC.
HOWEVER, CARAMANLIS HAD OVERRULED HIM AND SAID THAT IT WOULD
ONLY FURTHER POISON THE ATMOSPHERE ON THE
EVE OF THE HOPED-FOR VIENNA TALKS FOR THE GOG TO
PERSIST IN SUCH A PUBLIC DEBATE WITH ANKARA. SINCE
THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WERE SOMEWHAT EQUIVOCAL THEMSELVES
ABOUT PROCEEDING TO VIENNA, CARAMANLIS DID NOT WANT
TO GIVE THEM THE PRETEXT OF AN ATHENS-BASED PROBLEM
FOR NOT GOING AHEAD WITH THE TALKS. IN ANY CASE,
BITSIOS SAID, THINGS SEEMED TO BE BACK ON THE
TRACK AGAIN AND THE PROSPECTS FOR FOLLOWING THE
PATH FOR NEGOTIATIONS THAT HAD BEEN ENVISAGED
BY THE BRUSSELS UNDERSTANDINGS WERE NOW ONCE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ATHENS 01707 241720Z

AGIN ENCOURAGING.

4. BITSIOS SAID HE WAS A LITTLE UNEASY ABOUT THE
AGREEMENT TO EXCHANGE "WRITTEN PROPOSALS" BETWEEN
THE TWO SIDES. HE SAID THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY STILL
SO FAR APART THAT NEITHER SIDE'S WRITTEN PROPOSALS
COULD BE EXPECTED TO APPROACH WHAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE
TO THE OTHER SIDE. THEREFORE, HE SAID THAT IF HE HAD

BEEN DIRECTING THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE GREEK SIDE HE WOULD HAVE STRONGLY ADVOCATED CONTINUING ORAL EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WITH "GIVE AND TAKE" UNTIL THE TWO SIDES WERE CLOSER TO "A COMMON BASIS." HOWEVER, THE "REQUIREMENT" FOR WRITTEN PROPOSALS HAD ACQUIRED A LIFE OF ITS OWN AS FAR AS THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WERE CONCERNED SINCE IN FOUR PREVIOUS ROUNDS -- AND IN BETWEEN THE ROUNDS -- THE GREEK CYPRIOTS HAD BEEN INSISTING THAT DENKTASH PRESENT HIS PROPOSALS IN WRITING AND IN THE THIRD ROUND IN VIENNA HE HAD AGREED TO DO SO AT THE FOURTH ROUND IN NEW YORK -- WHICH, OF COURSE, HE DID NOT DO. THEREFORE, ALMOST FOR THE SAKE OF PRINCIPLE, THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WERE DETERMINED TO INSIST THIS TIME THAT DENKTASH MAKE PROPOSALS IN WRITING, NO MATTER HOW UNSATISFACTORY THEY MIGHT BE. OF COURSE, BITSIOS QUICKLY ADDED, THE GREEK CYPRIOTS KNOW FAR BETTER HOW TO DEAL WITH DENKTASH THAN HE DOES. THEN, SIGHING SOMEWHAT WEARILY, HE INDICATED HIS DESIRE TO TURN TO OTHER SUBJECTS.

5. COMMENT: I KNOW THAT BITSIOS HAD A MEETING LAST NIGHT WITH CARAMANLIS AND THE SMALL "INTERNAL CABINET," CONSISTING OF PAPALIGOURAS, AVEROFF AND RALLIS, IN ADDITION TO THOSE TWO, IN WHICH THEY DISCUSSED THE CYPRUS SITUATION AND SEVERAL OTHER TOPICS. TODAY, BY THE GENERAL LINE AND TONE OF HIS COMMENTS, BITSIOS SEEMED TO ME TO BE REFLECTING A CONSCIOUS GOAL DECISION TO DRAW BACK FURTHER AND NOT BECOME ANY MORE DIRECTLY AND OPENLY INVOLVED IN THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AT THIS STAGE THAN THEY HAVE TO. OBVIOUSLY, THE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT MUST STOP FAR SHORT OF APPEARING TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF INDIFFERENCE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME -- SEEING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ATHENS 01707 241720Z

A LONG, ARDUOUS ROAD OF INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS AHEAD AND LITTLE PROSPECT FOR RAPID AND DRAMATIC SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM -- THEY ARE TRYING TO AVOID BECOMING EXCESSIVELY BOGGED DOWN BY IT.
KUBISCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNITY RELATIONS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS01707
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760069-0148
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760221/aaaaaryb.tel
Line Count: 159
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 ATHENS 1669, 76 VIENNA 1379
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <27 JUL 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CYPRUS INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IN VIENNA: COMMENTS BY BITSIOS
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, CY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006